LONDON
metro®
Wednesday, May 30, 2012
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and be free.

Value Village pays local nonprofits every time you donate.

Donations benefit:

Canadian Diabetes Association

OFCP Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy

ValueVillage
Good deeds. Great deals.
www.valuevillage.com

RECYCLE WITH STYLE AT VALUE VILLAGE

Paid Advertisement

Shopping and donating at Value Village provides a great way for customers to reduce, reuse and recycle!

There are many ways consumers can make small changes in their daily habit in order to have a positive impact on the environment, from switching to energy-efficient light bulbs and eco-friendly cleaning products to carrying reusable shopping bags. What many don't realize is that one of the easiest ways to "go green" is by shopping thrift. When you shop at Value Village stores and donate reusable items to its nonprofit partners, you're keeping goods out of landfills and giving pre-loved treasures a brand new life.

"We know that families across Canada are clearing out their clutter and getting organized with spring cleaning," said Tony Shumpert, Vice President of Recycling Operations for Value Village. "By donating these items, instead of simply throwing them away, you can give back to your community and save quality goods from polluting the Earth. In fact, Value Village operates one of the largest recycling programs in the world, saving more than 600 million pounds of goods from landfills last year alone."

DID YOU KNOW? Shopping thrift is a great way to snag fashionable clothing and one-of-a-kind accessories, collectables, books and household items for a bargain. Value Village purchases its merchandise from more than 60 nonprofit offices across Canada, which allows each store to stock nearly 100,000 items on its sales floor each and every day! So the selection is ever-changing and always fresh!

So how does it work? Every Value Village location partners with a charitable organization in its community, including Canadian Diabetes Association and Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy. All year round, each store pays its nonprofit partner for every donated item, including clothing, housewares, books and more. Over the past 10 years, Value Village has purchased more than $1.5 billion of goods from its partners – turning otherwise unused items into sustainable funding that supports the nonprofit's vital community programs and services.

The highest-quality items are priced at a great value and displayed on Value Village's sales floors for purchase, while merchandise not suitable for resale is responsibly recycled.

Residents with clothing or household goods to donate can call participating nonprofits for a home pickup or drop off their items at convenient Community Donation Centres located at every Value Village store.

In this area, a convenient Community Donation Centre is located at 4465 Wellington Rd and 1500 Dundas St, London, ON. For more information on Value Village's nonprofit partnerships and recycling efforts visit **valuevillage.com**.

Donate
and make a difference

Help the community and planet Earth by donating your reusable clothing and household items at the Community Donation Centre located at Value Village. Value Village pays local nonprofits every time you donate. Plus you'll be helping to keep reusable items from ending up in landfills. So you can feel great when you donate!

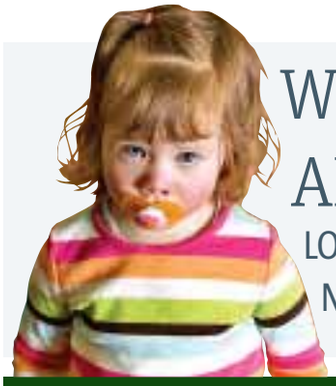
SUPPORT:

Canadian Diabetes Association

OFCP Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy

DONATE AT:

Value Village



WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER

LONDONERS ARE SLIGHTLY OLDER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE: NEW CENSUS DATA PAGES 2, 4 & 5

LOTTO 649 30 YEARS 30TH ANNIVERSARY BONUS
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Boys and girls have got to STICK TOGETHER

Brad Marsh, a London Knights alumnus who played 15 seasons in the National Hockey League, battles for a loose ball with Samantha Webb, 9, at the Boys & Girls Club of London (184 Horton St. E.) on Tuesday afternoon. Marsh stopped in the Forest City on his cross-Canada cycling trip to raise money for Boys & Girls clubs nationwide. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

It might get loud

Outdoor concerts.

More lenient rules governing noise levels could attract big-name performers, event organizers say

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

People will likely get a chance to weigh in next month on how loud and how long concerts at city parks can rock on.

City council's community-services committee has recommended a June 19 public meeting to field comments on the issue. A debate was sparked in February when event organizers complained London's rules — music between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m., along with a 90-decibel limit in most parks — are too restrictive.

Several councillors said the opinions of stakeholders should be considered before a decision is made.

"No matter what policy we come up with, we're not going to please everyone 100 per cent," Coun. Bill Armstrong said. "We'll have to, hopefully, come up with something in the middle."

Festivals are struggling to stay afloat and paying penalties for violating noise rules doesn't help matters, Mayor Joe Fontana said. The issue, he warned, could make London less attractive to performers and take the city "completely out of the market."

"It's not as if it's every night, every weekend people have to put up with so-called noise," Fontana said. "Some people call it noise, I call it music."

The public meeting is subject to full council approval on June 12. If it moves ahead, people will be asked to comment on the following options: Keeping things as they are, allowing concerts to go until midnight, stopping music at 1 a.m., increasing the decibel limit to 100 or setting an acceptable range of 85 to 100 decibels.

Under any scenario, the number of events would still be limited and the existing 70-decibel threshold would remain for Springbank Gardens.

A report from recreation director Bill Coxhead shows six of 25 events — Caliente, Sunfest, the Home County Folk Festival, Rockin' New Year's Eve, Rock the Park and the Walmart Walk for Life — exceeded noise limits last year and lost their $500 "noise deposit" paid to the city.

Rock the Park was last summer's chief offender, going over 90 decibels on 38 occasions.

Follow Angela Mullins on Twitter @MetroAngela

Noise control

Decibel limits in other cities:
- Guelph: 95 (other limits for special events under consideration)
- Hamilton: 90
- Waterloo: 80
- Sarnia: None
- Windsor: 95 at Festival Plaza only

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NEWS

On the web

Dark Knight under the sea

The underwater world has its very own Batman. It carries the shape of the Batman symbol comic fans know all too well, and it's baffling scientists. Watch this and other bizarre aquatic phenomena at metronews.ca.

Mobile news

Many Canadian kids are failing to make the grade when it comes to reaching physical-activity targets, with too few hours devoted to active play and too much free time looking at TV and computer screens. Scan the code to read more.

Local runners asked to 'just do it' for the cameras

Women line up in Victoria Park on Tuesday for a chance to be featured in a Nike commercial. Organizers of the open casting call said they couldn't discuss details. The women auditioning said they received an email invitation after participating in the recent Forest City Road Races. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

A city for the aged

Census. Forest City's population older than average, data shows

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

London's population base is slightly older than the national average, says a report released by Statistics Canada.

Census data, which was compiled in May of last year but made available to the public Tuesday morning, indicates the Forest City is made up of a higher percentage of seniors and a lower percentage of kids in comparison to other metropolitan areas across Canada.

Fifteen percent of London-and-area residents are considered seniors (65 years or older). National (14.8) and provincial averages (14.6) show a minor drop-off in the elderly demographic in comparison.

It appears the city is prepared to accommodate any further increases in the senior-aged population, however.

In June 2010, the city introduced a program called Age Friendly London, which hopes to "enhance quality of life as people age." In fact, the city is a member of a global network of age-friendly cities overseen by the World Health Organization.

"One of the main themes of this initiative is accessibility for seniors," said Donna Baxter with the City of London. "We're fully aware the baby boomers are starting to retire."

Quotable

"It's actually one of the most attractive cities for seniors in North America."

Donna Baxter, City of London

Age Friendly is still in its early stages of development, but by the fall an official action plan will be presented to city council.

Overall, Baxter points to three main reasons why seniors feel comfortable settling in London: Quality health-care facilities, affordable housing, and an overall affirmative quality of life. RetirementLifeMatters.com named London one of the best places to retire in Canada, citing its taxing system, retail services and recreational activities — among other things — as benefits.

When placed beside statistics from the metropolitan area of Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, a nearby and similar market, London's median age of 40 is almost three years older (37.6). With 12.5 per cent of K-C-W's population considered seniors, though, that number is no surprise.

As a whole, K-C-W is growing at a faster pace, too, as it saw a 5.7 per cent population increase since 2006 compared to 3.5 in London.

More coverage on pages 4 and 5

For local reaction to the findings of the census, visit metronews.ca

Comedy tour

Russell Peters coming to the JLC

Comedian Russell Peters is bringing his Notorious World Tour to London.

Tickets ($100.75, $80.75, $50.75) for the Sept. 27 performance at the John Labatt Centre go on sale Saturday at 10 a.m. They're available at johnlabattcentre.com, the JLC box office, Masonville Place, Fanshawe College BizBooth, the Bookstore at Western, and Books Plus.

METRO

Frontier League

Rippers trounce Boomers 12-1

The London Rippers took out some early season frustration Tuesday, crushing the Schaumburg Boomers 12-1 in the first game of a three-game series in Illinois.

London had lost two-of-three at home against Gateway over the weekend. But the bats awakened Tuesday, as the Rippers knocked out a season-high 17 hits, including Joash Brodin's grand slam — the first in team history.

London's record is now 3-7.

METRO

Six units damaged

Pond Mills fire 'suspicious'

A week after several families were left homeless following a fire at a Pond Mills-area townhouse complex, London police say they're now treating the blaze as "suspicious."

Dozens of firefighters responded to the scene on Shelborne Street and spent more than two hours trying to bring the blaze under control.

Six units were damaged, totalling about $900,000.

AM980/AM980.CA

Afghanistan

Al-Qaida's No. 2 killed by NATO

The U.S.-led NATO force in Afghanistan killed al-Qaida's second-highest leader in the country in an air strike in eastern Kunar province, the coalition said Tuesday.

Sakhr al-Taifi, also known as Mushtaq and Nasim, was responsible for commanding foreign insurgents in Afghanistan and directing attacks against NATO and Afghan forces, the alliance said.

The air strike that killed al-Taifi and another al-Qaida militant took place Sunday in Kunar's Watahpur district, the coalition said. A follow-on assessment of the area determined that no civilians were harmed, it said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investigation

Tories mailed what may be human foot

Police are investigating a gruesome find at the Conservative Party of Canada headquarters in Ottawa, where a box containing what may be a human foot was delivered by Canada Post on Tuesday.

Shortly before lunch hour, police were called with a report about a suspicious package. The first officers to arrive on the scene saw what appeared to be blood stains on the package and immediately called in a special hazardous-material unit.

When the specialists opened the package, police say they found what may be a human appendage inside. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspected murders

Couple arrested in connection with death of six kids

British police on Tuesday arrested the parents of six children who died in a fire at their home on suspicion of murder.

Derbyshire police said a 55-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman were arrested together in Derby city centre in connection with the fire earlier this month, which the force said broke out after fuel was poured through the front-door mail slot of the family's home.

Police did not name the suspects, but British media have identified them as Mick Philpott, 55, and his wife Mairead, 31. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada gives boot to Syrian diplomats

Expelled. Following massacre where 108 were killed, Ottawa takes part in international efforts

Canada joined allies across the world Tuesday in expelling Syrian diplomats, as the slaughter of the innocent in Houla provoked a broad severing of global ties with the pariah Assad regime in Damascus.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said Canada was expelling Syrian diplomats in the wake of the weekend massacre in Houla. The United Nations said 108 people died in the massacre, including 49 children and 34 women — one of the deadliest events in the 15-month uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime.

Canada took part in a coordinated diplomatic offensive along with the United States, Britain, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria and the Netherlands as the UN revealed more gruesome details of the events in Houla. Apparently the massacre included the close-range shootings of scores of children and parents in their homes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We asked for this a long time ago."

Raed Arab, protestor, saying the diplomatic expulsion was long overdue

New quake misery hits northern Italy

Rescue teams use dogs as they look for three workers who are reportedly missing at the Haemotronic factory in Medolla, northern Italy, on Tuesday. A magnitude-5.8 earthquake struck the area, which was hit by another fatal tremor on May 20. LUCA BRUNO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aung San Suu Kyi. Former prisoner resumes travels

For 24 years, Aung San Suu Kyi was either under house arrest or too fearful that if she left Myanmar, the government would never let her return.

Now the democracy activist and longtime political prisoner is resuming world travels, arriving Tuesday night in neighbouring Thailand after an 85-minute flight from her homeland of Myanmar.

With the installation of an elected government last year, she can claim at least partial success for her long fight and feel the freedom to explore the world. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

School. Ontario won't budge on gay-straight alliances

The Ontario government refused to back down Tuesday in a fight with Catholic educators over the use of the term "gay-straight alliance," but rejected suggestions its aim was to end the separate school system.

"I think it's a couple of fundamental values that transcend any one faith ... respect and fairness," said Premier Dalton McGuinty. "We do everything we can in ... our homes to love and respect and accept our children. We just want to make sure the same kind of atmosphere prevails in publicly funded school systems." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miami. Cops seek witnesses in face-chewing incident

Authorities in Miami looked for more witnesses after a naked man who refused to stop chewing on the face of another naked man on a busy highway ramp, despite being shot by police, was finally shot to death.

Det. William Moreno said police want to understand what led to the grisly scene in which a witness said the man — identified by authorities as Rudy Eugene, 31 — growled when a police officer told him to stop his attack. The victim, who has not been identified, is hospitalized in critical condition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The old, the young and the age of change

Census. Toddlers bust a move, but the oldsters just keep on coming, and the implications are only beginning to sink in

Canada is becoming a nation of the aging and the very young.

New census data shows Canada now has a higher proportion of seniors than ever before — a development that has crept up on society with far-reaching implications for health, finance, policy and everyday family relationships.

At the same time, the latest tranche of 2011 census information shows a surprising 11 per cent resurgence of toddlers — a burst of growth in the under-five population that is a complete reversal of trend-lines a decade ago and is rejuvenating every region of the country.

"I wouldn't call it a baby boom, although I think we can call it a significant increase," Laurent Martel, a demography expert at Statistics Canada, said in an interview.

Generally, though, the census shows in great detail what most people already know intuitively: Canada is aging quickly as the baby boomers mature.

The population of over-65ers has surged to nearly five million over the past five years, growing 14.1 per cent since the last official count, Statistics Canada says.

That's more than double the 5.9-per-cent increase for the population as a whole.

It's a trend that's poised to take on momentum. That's because near-seniors — people aged 60 to 64 — grew faster than any other group. Their population soared 29.1 per cent over the past five years, a pattern that will persist as they move up the age ladder.

They are the oldest edge of the baby-boom generation that includes three out of 10 Canadians, and has so dramatically shaped Canada's landscape for decades.

Young people, on the other hand, are a stagnating generation — despite the torrent of toddlers. The under-15 cohort is barely expanding, having edged up just 0.5 per cent over the past five years.

Children under 15 make up just 16.7 per cent of the population now, while seniors are at a record high of 14.8 per cent, and growing.

In just four years, Canada will face what demographers have dubbed "the cross-over": The day when there are more seniors than children.

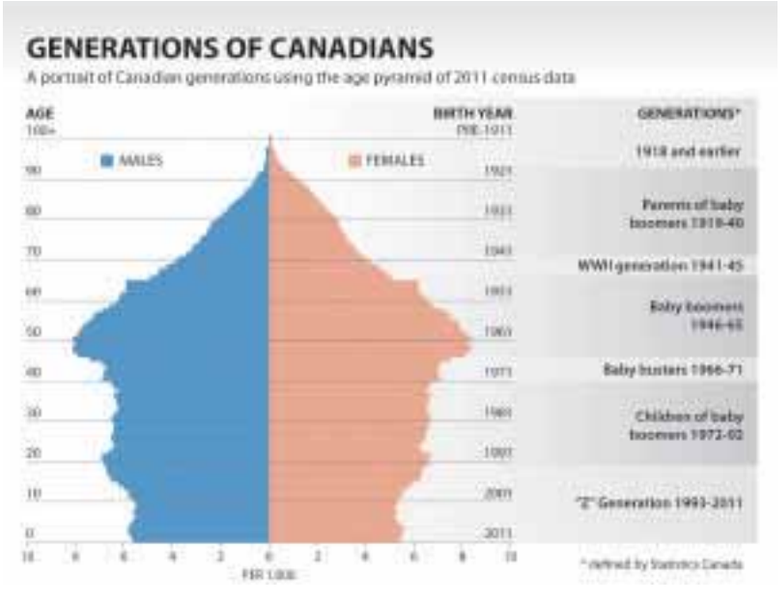
The median age in Canada is now 40.6, the oldest ever, up from 39.5 five years ago and from 33.5 two decades ago.

Canada's population aging is a mix of longer lives and a growing number of people in their senior years, Martel said.

In 2011, there were 4,870 women and 955 men aged 100 or more — the second-fastest growing age group with a 25.7-per-cent rate of expansion. By 2031, StatsCan projects the number of centenarians will reach 17,000, rising to close to 80,000 by 2061 as the bulk of the remaining baby boomers moves into the triple digits.

Compared to other G8 countries, Canada's population is relatively young, and the proportion of seniors in Canada is among the lowest in the G8.

That's about to change, Martel warned: Canada had a bigger baby boom than other countries, and as people retire in droves, Canada's aging trend will pick up speed. THE CANADIAN PRESS



By the numbers: Youngest vs. oldest communities

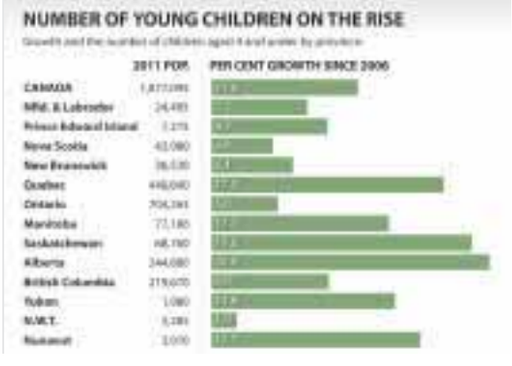
- **Top-5 youngest communities (pop. 10,000 or more)**

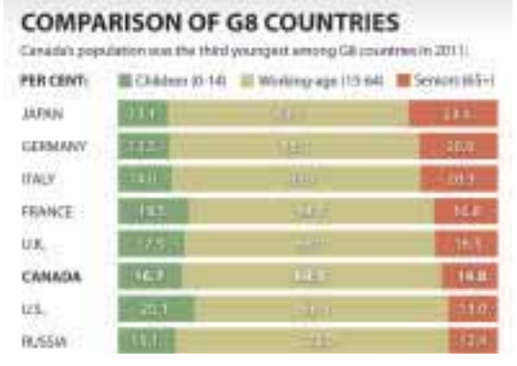
  Mackenzie County, Alta.: 22.6 years
  Hanover, Man.: 27 years
  Grande Prairie, Alta.: 30.3 years
  Petawawa, Ont.: 30.4 years
  Cold Lake, Alta.: 30.5 years

- **Top-5 oldest communities (pop. 10,000 or more)**

  Parksville, B.C.: 58.2 years
  Elliot Lake, Ont.: 57.1 years
  Sidney, B.C.: 56.9 years
  White Rock, B.C.: 53.8 years
  North Saanich, B.C.: 53.7 years

Source: Statistics Canada (Based on median age)





Birth rate

Canada's baby bump is showing

More Canadians, it seems, are changing dirty diapers, serving up spoonfuls of mushy peas and getting tongue-tied over Dr. Seuss books before bed, if the latest census figures from Statistics Canada are any indication.

Previously released population statistics show more people in Canada are having children. The national birth rate increased slightly from 1.59 in 2006 to 1.67 in 2009. In Alberta, the rate is among the highest of the provinces; it was 1.8 in 2010.

Not surprisingly, the latest increase was felt most profoundly in the Prairies, which have become magnets for job-seeking, working-age families looking for a place to put down roots.

In Alberta, the growth rate among kids four and under was 20.9 per cent, followed by Saskatchewan at 19.6 per cent. Quebec also posted a strong increase at 17.5 per cent, as did Nunavut at 15.7 per cent.

Another reason for Canada's baby bump may simply be that there are more moms. Statistics Canada attributed the spike to modestly higher fertility rates in most regions, as well as a growing number of women aged 20 to 34 — traditional child-rearing years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Go to metronews.ca/features to:

- Take the census 2011 quiz.
- Check out the interactive graphic on population projections by age and sex from 1971-2061.
- See the communities map for an interactive breakdown of the data city by city.
- **Watch videos.** Canadians say just "how old is old?"; seniors give longevity tips.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

0.99:1
The ratio of people aged 15-24 compared to people aged 55-64 in 2011. In 1931, that ratio stood at 2.95:1.
2016
The year Statistics Canada projects children under 14 will, for the first time, be outnumbered by seniors. This despite the efforts of a very active Alberta, which saw an increase of 20.9 per cent in the number of children aged four and under between 2006 and 2011.
5,825
The number of people in Canada aged 100 and older in 2011. Centenarians have been on the rise over the last decade, with 3,795 in 2001. But a big jump is coming, according to Statistics Canada projections, with the country on its way to seeing 78,300 centenarians in 2061.
40.6
In years, Canada's median age in 2011 — the age at which one half the population is older and the other half is younger. In 2006, it was 39.5.

Women are turning the big, big wheels

Kolby Nepoose has had a lot of jobs at places that would probably sound familiar to many young women — grocery store, health-care centre, coffee shop, bank.

Eventually, though, the lure of sitting at a desk began to fade.

"I just found my work really tedious, sitting at the computer all day," said Nepoose, 25.

So she found something different — way different. She now works at Mammoet, a Dutch multinational that builds and operates heavy lift and transport equipment. Nepoose — booted, hard-hatted and overalled — is working towards a journeyman's ticket as a crane operator.

Workers like Nepoose are still rare: In 2007, only about two per cent of those employed in non-service-sector trades were women. But those numbers are increasing.

JudyLynn Archer is trying to be part of that solution. She leads an Edmonton organization called Women Building Futures, which offers pre-apprenticeship programs to introduce women to trades from carpentry to welding to pipefitting.

A total of 3,000 women contacted Women Building Futures last year looking for information on the trades. About 190 from across Canada are expected to graduate this year, almost all directly into jobs or apprenticeships.

Renee Jones, first-year apprentice crane operator, is seen on a RT 65-tonne crane that she operates at Mammoet, in Edmonton. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

Women "drive with less ego."

JudyLynn Archer of Women Building Futures, who said employers tell her women are easier on heavy equipment — more vigilant with preventative maintenance and safety checks and gentler on the huge and hugely expensive tires the big stuff rolls on.

"If we had 2,000 today, they could all be placed, working," Archer said. "The demand is unbelievable."

Women are fitting in just fine on job sites across the province, she added.

Companies "are very happy with their female employees. They show up every day, they have a strong attention to detail and they're more loyal."

Still, she said, employers are just starting to see women as part of the solution to Canada's coming shortage of skilled labour. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE SENIORS ARE

A look at the Top 10 communities (population 10,000 or more) with the largest proportion of seniors, according to 2011 census data

How old is old? 'It's how you feel'

Ask Alan Wilson to define "old" and he answers with a hearty chuckle.

"It's just a number; it's how you feel," said Wilson, a spry 82-year-old who teaches line-dancing classes at a seniors' recreation centre in Peterborough, Ont.

"I had a heart attack 10 years ago and that didn't hold me back at all."

To Wilson and many of his friends, being old is a state of mind — one that Canada's increasingly active senior set is choosing to ignore as the leading edge of the baby boom reaches the traditional retirement age of 65.

So, it's a fair question: How old is old?

The point at which health concerns become real-life realities is when a person can truly be considered "old," said Susan Eng, vice-president for advocacy at the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP), Canada's leading seniors' advocacy organization.

"Where the rubber hits the road is when old becomes a limitation," said Eng.

And rather than deny that true old age — with its eventual drawbacks — will hit them one day, it's vital that modern seniors embrace their aging, she added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Russian researchers discover massive new cyberweapon

'Flame.' Virus can turn infected computers into listening devices and even have them suck info out of nearby cellphones

A massive data-slurping cyberweapon is circulating in the Middle East, a Russian Internet security firm reported Monday, saying that computers in Iran appear to have been particularly affected.

The virus, dubbed "Flame," is unprecedented both in terms of its size and complexity, Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab ZAO reported, saying it possesses the ability to turn infected computers into listening devices and even suck information out from nearby cellphones.

The announcement sent a ripple of excitement across the computer security sector. Flame is the third major cyberweapon discovered in the past two years, and Kaspersky's conclusion that it was crafted at the behest of a national government fueled speculation that the virus could be part of an Israeli-backed campaign of electronic sabotage aimed at archrival Iran.

Some evidence suggests that the people behind Flame also helped craft Stuxnet, a notorious virus that disrupted controls of some nuclear centrifuges in Iran in 2010, according to Ilan Froimovici, the technical director at Power Communications, which represents Kaspersky in Israel.

The two codes "use the same vulnerabilities in the operating system and the computer infrastructure in order to infect the computer system. We do believe that the same programmers built the two codes," he said. Stuxnet revolutionized the cybersecurity field because it targeted physical infrastructure rather than data, one of the first demonstrations of how savvy hackers can take control of industrial systems to wreak havoc. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.76¢ (+0.08¢)

TSX 11,609.3 (+43.15)

OIL $90.76 US (-10¢)

GOLD $1,548.70 US (-$20.20)

Natural gas: $2.517 US (-5.1¢)
Dow Jones: 12,580.69 (+125.86)

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DADS SAY THE DARNEDEST THINGS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Justin Halpern is a testament to the power of Twitter.

A lovable loser who was dumped by his girlfriend, he moved back home and started mining his father's advice, salted liberally with profanity, and tweeting it to his followers, who grew into the millions.

Eventually that turned into a book contract, then a book called S--- My Dad Says, then a sitcom starring William Shatner as "Dad," and now another book, this one called I Suck at Girls. And he has already sold the TV rights.

As Dad says: "Any idiot can get lucky once. Takes a special idiot to get lucky twice." Gee, thanks.

Father-son code

"My own dad preferred to deliver his wisdom in code. He only ever said two things to me: 1) Pass the salt and 2) Get a job."

Oh, and Halpern eventually got — and married — the girl, so maybe he doesn't actually suck at girls.

My own dad preferred to deliver his wisdom in code. He only ever said two things to me: 1) Pass the salt and 2) Get a job.

After a while, the charm of wondering whether any request for advice was going to be met with either Option 1 or 2 wore off, and I stopped asking. I mean, I already had three jobs and always passed the salt. As far as I could tell, following instructions failed to help with girls.

One of my earliest attempts at romance failed when the object of my affections said I'd make "some girl a great husband." Which at the time sounded like a crushing put-down. Which it was. Even worse, I'm not even sure my actual wife would agree.

Halpern says that when his wife-to-be broke up with him the first time, it was his lucky day. Otherwise he never would have moved back home and tweeted Dirty Dad to riches and fame.

I had the same kind of bittersweet formative love life: When I was 16, I met a terrific girl with terrific red hair and a terrific itsy-bitsy teeny-weenie yellow polka-dot bikini. Unfortunately, she also came with a psychopath named Ray who owned a Harley.

So I was curious about what Sam Halpern had to say about the inhabitants of Venus.

Here's the cleanest I could find. "No, you can be ugly and get laid. You just gotta be willing to s---w someone uglier than you." Dad's a real piece of work.

I Suck at Girls is shot through with similarly colourful bromides. At one point, when he was nine, Justin asked Sam to explain the birds and the bees. "No," said Sam. "You don't even have hair on your balls."

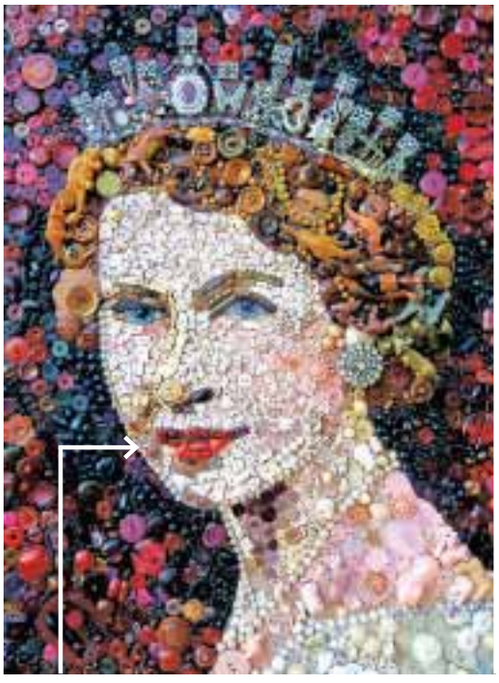
I think I prefer "Pass the salt" and "Get a job."

According to a recent survey, Justin and I aren't the only ones getting bad advice. Turns out only 31 per cent of Canadian women actually experience an orgasm during sex, compared to 84 per cent of men.

Maybe we should all just get a job instead.

Justin Halpern FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

Royal portrait is rubbish



CONTRIBUTED

Royalist art

The Queen has a button nose — literally

Jane Perkins
CONTRIBUTED

Artist Jane Perkins has created three portraits of the Queen made from unwanted buttons, beads and small plastic toys.

The triptych depicts the monarch in three stages of life: During her Coronation, Silver Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee. The above two are for the Coronation and Diamond Jubilee. METRO WORLD NEWS

Perkins on her Queen art

- **Sum of many parts.** "I honestly cannot say how many separate items I have used in these portraits. Generally speaking, I use everything from small plastic toys, beads, broken jewelry, buttons, bottle tops and other small found objects to create my art. I get these materials from car boot sales and charity shops that can't sell them. I started out doing this art while making brooches in my final year in my degree in textiles. I was inspired by headdresses from Ecuador used in religious processions, many of which have been made from Barbie doll parts. While I don't consider myself an ardent royalist, I have enjoyed making the portraits of the Queen, particularly making the crown with different shiny objects can be a very creative process."
- **How it's all pieced together.** "It doesn't take too long to make one portrait — only two weeks. First, I blow up an image of the person to a 70-by-50 centimetre size, and start sticking the various objects on top of the blow-ups themselves. As the colour of the blow-up photocopy is often faded, I always have an 'original,' smaller but higher-resolution image to work from. This way, I can stay true to the original colours of the portraits when I add my items."
- **Artistic philosophy.** "I have serious views about recycling and reusing materials. We're drowning in so much unwanted stuff."

In numbers

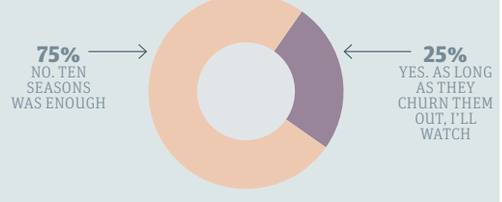
129

The number of portraits the Queen has sat down for during her reign. Lucien Freud's portrayal in 2001 proved to be the most controversial, with critics describing the sober likeness as "extremely unflattering."

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Did you tune in to the finale of the 11th season of American Idol?



Twitter

@jhunt86:
Sllloooooowweeessttt internet connection at the office. #firstworldproblems

@kwoodend:
Think my co-workers would notice if I hid under my desk until this weather goes away? #baby

@NikkehSass:
Yikes...it's a tad dark in my apartment. :o #rainstorms #ldnont

@erinjohannson:
#Valtari day! Must find this on vinyl.

@MSTOP:
I'm going to start hashtagging my comments, from now on you can find me on a hashtag search too. This is my first hashtag of myself. #mstop

@lamakanj:
So gloomy today. It looks like Vancouver in #ldnont right now.

metro

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2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Citytv announces fall lineup

A new comedy from the creators of Will & Grace, the addition of late night host Jimmy Kimmel and the arrival of Katie Couric's daytime talk show are among the highlights of Citytv's fall slate of shows. Upcoming offerings include the buddy comedy Partners from Will & Grace creators David Kohan and Max Mutchnick, the odd-couple sibling sitcom Ben and Kate, Mindy Kaling's single-camera The Mindy Project and Reba McEntire's Malibu Country. Another five comedies are set for mid-season: 1600 Penn, about life in a dysfunctional White House; The Goodwin Games about three grown siblings who stand to inherit millions; How to Live with Your Parents (For the Rest of Your Life) with Sarah Chalke as a single mom forced to move back in with her parents; plus Citytv productions Package Deal, about three overly close brothers and Seed, about a sperm donor who becomes entangled in the lives of his newfound children. Meanwhile, J.J. Abrams's dystopian drama Revolution and the creepy 666 Park Avenue also hit airwaves this fall. The Hannibal Lecter thriller Hannibal and Sex and the City prequel The Carrie Diaries will air mid-season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Barenaked Ladies frontman Ed Robertson co-hosts Live! With Kelly

'We wanted to have a formidable silhouette,' said costume designer Colleen Atwood. 'And from a distance it's spooky with the crown and her height and everything.' CONTRIBUTED

Evil thoughts and threads

Snow White and the Huntsman. Dressed to kill — Charlize Theron shines as a wicked queen in beautiful but 'treacherous' costumes

Charlize Theron's evil queen costumes for Snow White and the Huntsman called for hundreds of hand-cut rooster feathers, thousands of iridescent beetle wings from Thailand and one particularly imposing crown.

The outfits, some of which are on view at a Los Angeles pop-up gallery ahead of the film's June 1 opening, represented a host of firsts for Academy Award-winning costume designer Colleen Atwood.

From the leather piping on the pleats of the queen's wedding gown to the gauzy green metal trim on the beetle-wing dress, the nine-time Oscar nominee and three-time winner experimented with materials for director Rupert Sanders' dark take on the classic fairy tale.

"The idea of the fairy tale sets you free in a way because you can make it up," Atwood said. "And I love to make up stuff." She created an armoured ensemble fit for a queen by dressing up

Academy-Award-winning costume designer Colleen Atwood with a costume from Snow White and the Huntsman in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

chain mail with rolled leather and horsehair trim and topping it off with a particularly pointy metal crown.

"We wanted to have a formidable silhouette," Atwood said, "and from a distance it's spooky with the crown and her height and everything." (Theron stands nearly six feet tall, the designer added.)

In Sanders' version of the Snow White story, Kristen Stewart portrays the only woman in the land fairer than Theron's evil queen Ravenna. The queen dispatches a huntsman (Chris Hemsworth) to kill the young woman, but instead he becomes her mentor and protector.

Atwood took on the project after finishing work on Tim Burton's Dark Shadows, starring Johnny Depp. Atwood and Burton are frequent and successful collaborators. Her most recent Oscar was for his 2010 film Alice in Wonderland, and she earned nominations for her costumes in Burton's Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street and Sleepy Hollow.

Atwood's Snow White costumes are miles — and eras — away from Dark Shadows.

"They don't resemble each other in any way," she said, "so it was fun to shift from one to the other and have a whole different world to think about."

And slide right into. Snow White director Sanders said Atwood's wardrobes "blend seamlessly into this world, and they speak volumes about the world and its characters."

Theron agreed. From the wedding dress, with its architectural shoulders that appear to be made from bones, to the twice-embroidered gown that eventually resembles an old, peeling skin, Atwood's costumes reflect the evil queen's obsession with appearances.

"Every costume had a feeling of not quite what it seems," Theron said. "In a way, these dresses were like torture devices for Ravenna. I love that because I feel like Ravenna was, in a way, more torturous toward herself than to the people she was killing."

To minimize the actual on-set torture, Atwood employed a team of about 50 people to help the actors in and out of the elaborate costumes.

But the beetle wings remain dangerous. Thousands of the hard, brittle wings decorate the evil queen's regal dress of silk and metal mesh.

"They're incredibly sharp, so I had to be careful about how I used them. If you hit them, you can hurt yourself," the designer said.

"They're quite treacherous, which really suited the character."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Theron's killer wardrobe

"Every costume had a feeling of not quite what it seems. In a way, these dresses were like torture devices for Ravenna. I love that because I feel like Ravenna was, in a way, more torturous toward herself than to the people she was killing."

Actress Charlize Theron
On her character's costumes in Snow White and the Huntsman

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Wayne Coyne shows us a new side of Erykah Badu

THE WORD
Pat Healy
scene@metronews.ca

Flaming Lips frontman Wayne Coyne can always be counted on to fulfill a few basic rock 'n' roll needs: providing drastic psychedelic reinterpretations of songs you thought you already knew; teaming up with left-field collaborators that might not make sense on paper but sound awesome in practice; and tweeting the odd nude photo of himself, somebody he knows or somebody that you know.

Yesterday, Coyne got a hat trick when he tweeted nude photos of Erykah Badu, with whom he was shooting a video for a 10-minute cover she did with the Lips of a song that Roberta Flack made famous, The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face. The photos showed Badu bathing in glitter, covered in blood and generally seeming like a perfect foil to Coyne's weirdness.

God bless the Flaming Lips!

She's expressing something

While rehearsing her hit Express Yourself for a concert in Tel Aviv over the weekend, Madonna mixed things up a little and transitioned eerily, hilariously smoothly into Lady Gaga's Born This Way.

Like everyone else, Madonna flagged Gaga's song for sounding like a knock-off when it was released, calling it "reductive" and a "wonderful redo" of Express Yourself.

We're not sure what to think here: playful peace offering acknowledging that there's room for two, or is this Madonna's severed unicorn head?

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3 LIFE

Travel in brief

When you can't take Fido...

When you travel and have to leave your dog behind, you can call a kennel, hire a pet sitter — or find him a new friend online. The website DogVacay debuted in New York and Los Angeles in March and, just in time for the summer travel season, is now available throughout the United States and Canada. The site lets pet owners look up hosts in the area who will care for a dog in their own homes, giving a pet the food, exercise and attention you would give if you stayed home — sort of a doggy version of couch-surfing, for an average price of $25 to $30 a day. Hosts are checked out and interviewed by DogVacay and every owner and dog is encouraged to meet the host. The Santa Monica-based company was founded by Aaron and Karine Nissim Hirschhorn. In two months it has grown to over 4,000 hosts in two countries and from five employees to 13, Hirschhorn said. Visit dogvacay.com for more information.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Montreal's Ritz-Carlton shows off results of $200-million restoration.

The Gladstone Hotel is entirely dedicated to art. METRO WORLD NEWS

The top five arty hotels

A crappy reproduction of Van Gogh's Sunflowers just doesn't cut it in a boutique hotel trying to attract high-end, culturally demanding guests. Here are some hotels that combine style with the feel of an art gallery.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hotel La Belle Juliette, Paris, France

In 2005, the photography-loving owners of Hotels Paris Rive Gauche, a group of boutique hotel gems in the French capital, commissioned photographers to capture the essence of a night's stay at one of their hotels in a single shot. The project proved such a hit that it inspired an annual "A hotel photo, an artist's view" photo prize and exhibition, to support up-and-coming photographers. Each month a different young photographer is invited to give their take on a night's stay at a HPRG hotel; the results are shown on phpa.fr and in an annual show in a gallery. hotel-belle-juliette-paris.com

Town Hall Hotel, London, England

The owners of this imposing hotel in the former Bethnal Green Town Hall commissioned seven artists to create works as it was being built. They integrate sensitively with the original features from the 1910s and 1930s and reflect the building's rich history; the art here is built into the hotel. So Debbie Lawson's wooden veneer Victorian-era ladies of the night are discreetly inlaid into the parquet floor that runs along the first floor corridor, and Zoe Mendelson's artwork lights up the 1930s original Town Hall safe in the reception. townhallhotel.com

The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto

Not only are the 37 rooms in Toronto's artiest and oldest continuously-operating hotel designed by artists, but the entire building is dedicated to art. A full-time curator organizes exhibitions in the four galleries, and the hotel hosts around 100 art events and exhibitions every year, as well as live performances, comedy, gigs, burlesque and creative courses. More than 4,000 art lovers flock to the annual Come Up To My Room festival, when artists and designers display their works, with sculptures throughout the corridors, the guestrooms and generally imposing their presence on the hotel's public spaces for four days. gladstonehotel.com

Gramercy Park Hotel, New York

It's not every night that you get to sleep beneath one of Damien Hirst's spin paintings, but you can do that at the Gramercy Park Hotel. This is hotel meets art museum. The flamboyant interiors of this grand hotel were reconceived by designer Ian Schrager and painter Julian Schnabel, whose work hangs above the fireplace. Priceless works are littered throughout this wildly creative space, from Basquiats and Andy Warhols discreetly hung in lounges alongside bespoke designer furniture pieces, to a vast scarlet Cy Twombly canvas in the lounge. gramercyparkhotel.com

The Saxon Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa

This luxurious hotel in Johannesburg has a strong sense of its African heritage – Nelson Mandela moved in here after he was released from his prison ordeal and wrote his famous autobiography, The Long Road to Freedom. The hotel recently invested in a significant collection of African art, acquiring more than 200 original artworks created by 11 emerging and established South African artists, giving guests the chance to fully immerse themselves in African culture. saxon.co.za

Good things come wrapped up in paper

Black Cod en Papillote

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Black Cod. Asparagus and creme fraîche walnut sauce makes this one delicious meal

Simple, light and delicious, this recipe combines fresh herbs and spices that perfectly complement the rich butter flavour of the fish.

The combo of creme fraiche and walnuts add a crunchy twist to a delicately spiced, classic meal.

The creamy walnut sauce can also be served on top of chicken breasts or turkey. It makes a delicious vegetable dip as well.

Ingredients

- 250 ml (1 cup) walnut pieces, coarsely chopped
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) fresh tarragon leaves, chopped
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) creme fraîche
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) Dijon mustard
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) apple cider vinegar
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) walnut or olive oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) capers, chopped
- 4 small potatoes, thinly sliced
- 20 asparagus spears, trimmed
- 4 pieces (each 150 g/4 oz) black cod

1. Cut 4 circles of parchment paper (each 38 cm/15 inches in diameter); set aside.

2. In a bowl, combine walnuts, tarragon, creme fraiche, Dijon mustard, vinegar, walnut oil and capers; set aside.

3. Fold one parchment round in half and unfold. Spread one sliced potato in the centre of the bottom half of parchment. Place five asparagus spears on top of the potato and then lay the black cod on the asparagus.

4. Spoon 1/4 of the walnut mixture on top of the cod and fold the top half of parchment over. Seal edges by twisting and pressing the edges together in a half moon pattern. Repeat with remaining pieces of cod.

5. Place parchment packets on a baking sheet and bake in 200 C (400 F) oven for 20 to 25 minutes until parchment is lightly browned.

6. Remove from oven. Carefully cut a slit in the top of the packets, taking care as contents will be hot and steam may escape. Tear back edges of paper to reveal fish and serve. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WALNUTINFO.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Student Voice

The hunt has been harder than expected

Addie Sorrell
Student
Advertising Media Sales student
Humber College
TalentEgg.ca

In 2006, I dropped out of tourism and travel to pursue my dream: music. I specialized in Music Business and Engineering at Fanshawe College in London, Ont., and the program was structured so well that it seemed I wouldn't have any trouble finding a job after graduation.

The initial search was hard, and it took me a couple months of applications and emails before I finally landed an internship at a small music label in Toronto. It was a three-month internship with a chance for more work, I was told. So I packed up and moved to Toronto.

Eventually I was asked to start doing some commission work, which included researching bands and video editing. However, this small amount of pay was only for work I was doing outside office hours.

Three months later, I mentioned the idea of full-time work. My boss said, "This wasn't an internship; this is the job. We pay you commission — that's more than we'd ever give an intern. But keep up the good work!"

Two weeks later, I quit.

This is when it got hard. I spent an entire year unemployed with very few interviews. I applied for jobs in every city, a minimum of three per day.

It was a long and depressing year, and it never got better until a particularly desperate night in June, when I bit the bullet and applied to college programs for advertising. School is the one thing I was never rejected from.

Where I am now

I just finished my first year of Advertising Media Sales at Humber College, with honours. I chose advertising because it can be applied to so many fields and seems to always be a necessity for every successful company. For the past few months, I have been applying for summer internships in advertising and marketing departments all over the city.

My recommendations for students

Job rejection really isn't personal and generally you're competing with 15 other people for one little job. The odds are never in your favour, but that doesn't mean you can just stop. You will never get the job you don't apply to, and you can never fear that rejection.

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CASSANDRA JOWETT
TalentEgg.ca

Assess your way to success. ISTOCK

If you haven't seriously considered the insurance industry as an ideal place to start your career, maybe these statistics will encourage you to start:

Not even the recent tough economic times could slow the growth of the insurance industry; while many industries were laying off workers at the height of the last economic downturn, about 12,000 positions were added to the insurance workforce in Canada.

In addition, according to recent demographic research conducted by The Insurance Institute of Canada, about half of the approximately 110,000 property and casualty insurance professionals are between 41 and 60 years old, and 25 per cent of them are expected to retire in the next two to six years.

There aren't enough young insurance professionals to fill those gaps at the entry level or to move up into management roles, so the opportunities to start and grow your career within the insurance industry are enormous no matter what your educational background.

Trevor Buttrum, Career Connections Program Manager at the Insurance Institute (career-connections.info), answered a few of our questions to help students and recent grads better understand the job opportunities in this booming industry.

What are the different areas of the insurance industry?

There are three main types of insurance:

Life, Health and Financial: Essentially, making sure money is there to support you in case you get sick or to make sure families and friends do not need to shoulder the costs associated with your final expenses.

Social Insurance: These are government administered programs. In Canada, we are lucky enough to have universal health care. We also have employment insurance and workplace safety insurance which make sure we have a means of financial support in the case of job loss or injury at work.

Property and Casualty: This is essentially for anything without a pulse. Whether it's for something we own, our businesses or even our liability in an accident.

What do people who work in insurance typically like most about their jobs?

When asked what they like most about the industry, many insurance professionals talk about the variety and stability the industry offers.

There is a multitude of opportunities available within the sector that build on your interests, experience and career goals. The industry also has an openness to working in multiple business areas or changing directions over the course of your career. This allows for a career path that evolves and is as individual as you are.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES.

Want to learn more?

A good starting point is the Career Connections website (career-connections.info). Here students and recent graduates can:

- Read full occupational profiles for each of the nine gateway roles.
- Watch video clips about the industry and hear from professionals about their experiences working in insurance.
- Explore insurance education, licences and professional designations.

Soccer

Ukraine denies racism claims ahead of Euro 2012

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry says British media reports about racism among the country's football fans portray Ukraine unfairly ahead of the European championship.

The BBC on Monday broadcast a program showing fans in Ukraine and co-host Poland giving the Nazi salute and taunting black players with monkey noises.

Former England defender Sol Campbell told the broadcaster that fans should not travel to the tournament "because you could end up coming back in a coffin."

Ukraine Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleh Voloshyn said on Tuesday the BBC report is wrong and claimed Ukraine "is one of the leaders in Europe" in racial and religious tolerance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Blue Jays send Thames to minors

The Toronto Blue Jays recalled infielder Mike McCoy from Triple-A Las Vegas on Tuesday and optioned outfielder Eric Thames to the Pacific Coast League club.

Manager John Farrell said the addition of McCoy — who can also play in the outfield if needed — gives the Blue Jays some middle infield depth.

In 46 games, Thames hit .243 with seven doubles, three home runs and 11 RBIs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eric Thames GETTY IMAGES FILE

NHL

Leafs sign 2006 pick to 1-year deal

The Toronto Maple Leafs have signed forward Leo Komarov to a one-year contract, the club announced Tuesday.

The five-foot-11, 198-pound native of Narva, Estonia, was the Leafs' seventh choice in the 2006 NHL entry draft.

Komarov, 25, spent the past three seasons with Moscow Dynamo of the KHL. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Common ground in cup-final showdown

NHL. Devils and Kings took similar paths on journey to Stanley Cup

A great goalie. Depth in front of him. The ability to win on the road. And a respected coach.

Two teams with plenty of similarities drop the puck Wednesday for the Stanley Cup.

The sixth-seeded New Jersey Devils and eighth-seeded Los Angeles Kings face off at the Prudential Center in hockey's finale.

Both teams have already been forged in the cauldron of the playoffs. As lower seeds, they have not had home-ice advantage and had to get here the hard way.

Depth has been a key to both.

"I don't think it's an accident that the teams that are rolling four lines and 6 D (defencemen) are still playing," Devils coach Peter DeBoer said Tuesday.

"I think if you talked to Darryl, I would bet he'd say the same thing. It's been critical. You don't play 20, 25 playoff games and the grind and the emotion and the battle without having depth. You just can't."

Said Kings coach Darryl Sutter: "The way the schedule is and the way the travel is, you don't do it without everybody making some sort of contribution. Not just the minutes played but in performance."

Los Angeles is a mind-boggling 8-0 in the playoffs on the road, where the home team has the last line change. New Jersey is 6-4.

Both teams rely on their goaltenders to keep the opposition honest.

Mike Richards works out on Tuesday in New Jersey. GETTY IMAGES

Devils head coach Peter DeBoer give instruction during practice on Tuesday in Newark, N.J. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London's Drew Doughty speaks to media on Tuesday. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Martin Brodeur on Tuesday. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

New Jersey looks to career Devil Martin Brodeur, a future Hall of Famer who is still going strong at age 40.

Los Angeles has 26-year-old Jonathan Quick, who leads playoff goalies in goals-against average (1.54) and save percentage (.946). Brodeur's corresponding figures are 2.04 and .923.

Much has been made of the Kings' size but the league says there's really not much difference between the two. The Devils' average height and weight is six-foot-one and 204 pounds. For the Kings, it's six-foot-one and 208.

New Jersey's average age is 30, compared to 26.5 for Los Angeles.

"I think the goalies bring the average up quite a bit," Devils forward Dainius Zubrus said dryly, referencing Brodeur and 39-year-old Johan Hedberg.

The Kings have more Canadians (13 to six) than the Devils. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Breakdown

HOW THEY STACK UP

DEVILS

No. 6 (East), record (48-28-6), won season series 2-0

The Devils are in the Stanley Cup final for the fifth time and are looking for their fourth title. New Jersey captured the cup in 1995, 2000 and 2003, with its only final series loss to Colorado in 2001. Martin Brodeur has been there for all the final appearances, and could call it a career at age 40 once this series is over — win or lose.

KINGS

No. 8 (West), record (40-27-15)

The Kings are in the final for the second time in team history. L.A. is still looking for its first Stanley Cup, having lost in five games to Montreal in 1993. The Kings have won an NHL-record eight straight road playoff games — the first team to do it in one playoff year. Los Angeles has outscored opponents 30-13 in its road games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Stanley Cup final

"It doesn't make it bitter at all. Quite frankly, I think it's more interesting to watch. I am very fond of Richards and Carter. I'd love to see them succeed. As far as Jersey is concerned, they beat us. If they win, at least we know we lost to the best."

Philadelphia Flyers founder and owner Ed Snider, who said Tuesday he'd love to see former Flyers Mike Richards and Jeff Carter win the Stanley Cup with the Los Angeles Kings. Philadelphia general manager Paul Holmgren's gamble last summer to trade Richards and Carter in the prime of their careers yielded mixed results. The Flyers won 47 games, totalled 103 points, finished fifth in the Eastern Conference and had a six-game post-season series win over odds-on favourite Pittsburgh.

On the web

Manchester United may have lost the English Premier League title to its cross-city rival, but the club still claims to be the most-followed soccer team in the world. Internal research suggests United's popularity has doubled to 659-million followers in the last five years. Scan the code for the story.

MLB

Halladay expected to miss out on six to eight weeks

Philadelphia Phillies ace Roy Halladay is expected to miss six to eight weeks because of a strained right shoulder, the latest major setback for the five-time NL East champions.

Halladay was put on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday, two days after he was hit hard and pulled from a start in St. Louis after just two innings because of shoulder soreness.

The two-time Cy Young winner will be shut down for a minimum of three weeks, then work toward rejoining the rotation, Phillies assistant general manager Scott Proefrock said.

Proefrock said tests done in Philadelphia indicated Halladay doesn't need surgery to recover and that the injury doesn't affect his rotator cuff.

"We hate to have him down, but it's nothing that requires anything other than rest," Proefrock said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball. Trial judge dismisses 2 acts in Clemens' perjury case

The judge in the Roger Clemens perjury trial has dismissed two of the obstructive acts in the charges against the former pitcher.

Clemens remains charged with two counts of perjury and three counts of making false statements before Congress, along with 13 other obstructive acts.

All relate to Clemens' testimony before Congress at a 2008 hearing and his deposition that preceded it.

One of the statements dismissed was Clemens' contention that he had "no idea" that former Sen. George Mitchell wanted to talk with him in preparation for the 2007 Mitchell Report on drugs in baseball.

Prosecutors rested their case Monday. The judge ruled against Clemens' request for a dismissal of all charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roger Clemens, centre, arrives at federal court Tuesday in Washington. EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serena Williams reacts Tuesday at Roland Garros in Paris. MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES

Serena suffers historic loss

Tennis. Thirteen-time Grand Slam champion Williams loses opening-round match at Roland Garros

For more than a decade, whatever the state of her health or her game, no matter the opponent or arena, Serena Williams always won first-round matches at Grand Slam tournaments.

Always.

Until Tuesday at the French Open. Until Williams came within two points of victory nine times, yet remarkably failed to close the deal against unheralded and 111th-ranked Virginie Razzano of France.

Until a theatrical, 23-minute final game filled with 30 points, more than enough to fill an entire set, featuring ebbs and flows, high-pressure shotmaking and nerves — and even thunderous protests from the crowd when the chair umpire docked Razzano a point. That look-away-and-you-miss-something game included five wasted break points for Williams, and seven match points that she saved, until Razzano finally converted her eighth, three hours and three minutes after they began playing.

All told, until Tuesday, Williams was 46 for 46 in openers at tennis' top venues, and those encounters tended to be routine and drama-free, befitting a woman so good that the goal — and 13 times, the end result — was a major championship.

Not this time. Now Williams' first-round Grand Slam record is 46-1 after as stunning a denouement as could be in a 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3 loss to Razzano on the red clay at Roland Garros.

The fifth-seeded Williams, considered by many a pre-tournament favourite, led 5-1 in the second-set tiebreaker, before dropping the next 13 points in a row.

The 30-year-old American returned to action last year after missing about 10 months because of a series of health scares, including two foot operations and blood clots, a scary stretch she says altered her world view.

"I've been through so much in my life, and ... I'm not happy, by no means," said Williams, her eyes welling with tears. "I just always think things can be worse." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French Open

In other matches in Paris on Tuesday:

- Rafael Nadal started his bid for a record seventh French Open title with a mostly mistake-free 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 victory over 111th-ranked Simone Bolelli of Italy.
- Maria Sharapova won by in a 6-0, 6-0 "double bagel" romp Tuesday against Alexandra Cadantu in 48 minutes.
- Andy Murray started his French Open campaign by beating Tatsuma Ito 6-1, 7-5, 6-0.

NBA

Bobcats hope to beat odds and land No. 1 pick

The odds are stacked against Michael Jordan's Bobcats winning the NBA lottery Wednesday night and landing the No. 1 pick in the draft.

It's a tough situation for Jordan because his struggling franchise can't afford yet another loss.

The Bobcats finished with the worst winning percentage in league history (.106) after going 7-59 in the labour-shortened regular season. Nonetheless, they have a 25 per cent chance of getting this year's top prospect — who appears to be six-foot-10 Anthony Davis from Kentucky.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Acura bucks the engine trend

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

AWD

The RDX abandons Acura's very effective Super Handling All Wheel Drive (SH-AWD). However, the replacement system, called AWD with Intelligent Control, appears to have its own merits, which include sending 25 per cent of the available torque to the rear wheels when accelerating from a stop.

2013 Acura RDX

- **Type.** Four-door, all-wheel-drive luxury-compact wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.5-litre SOHC V6 (273).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 10.7/7.3.
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $42,900.

Beefed-up engine

A 3.5-litre V6 replaces the turbo-charged 2.3-litre four-cylinder, a move that appears to be in sharp contrast to other automakers — such as Ford — which are replacing larger engines with smaller turbo-charged powerplants that supposedly get better fuel economy.

But check this out. The RDX's V6 makes 273 horse power and 251 pound-feet of torque, compared to 240 horses and 260 pound-feet of torque for the 2.3. Most importantly, the RDX achieves a better fuel-consumption rating than the outgoing model.

How is this possible?

A six-speed automatic transmission — one more gear than used on the turbo four — helps improve the ratings, but so do other fuel-conserving innovations.

There's low-viscosity engine and transmission oil, a special friction-reducing coating for the pistons and Variable Cylinder Management that allows the engine to operate with two or three of its six cylinders (depending on the load) shut down.

Acura says the RDX also has improved aerodynamics, fuel-saving electric power steering pump and low-rolling-resistance tires.

Review. More pistons as well as better fuel economy? What does the new RDX know that we don't?

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

With the entire automotive world dropping pistons to add fuel economy — and even bragging about it — there's this little twist: the 2013 Acura RDX is adding fuel economy by adding pistons.

Yes, the whole universe is suddenly out of whack and it begs the question, what does Honda know that the rest of the world doesn't. Well, we're in Arizona to find out.

The RDX brand has been around since the 2007 model year as a rival to the BMW X3, Audi Q5, Cadillac SRX, Mercedes-Benz GLK and other premium-priced five-passenger wagons.

Changes for the 2010 model year gave it a look that resembled the larger MDX, which is an approach that has clearly spilled over into the new RDX.

The aggressively arched fenders, redesigned nose-piece and artfully reshaped roofline convey a sense of increased proportions, which is an illusion considering that most key dimensions — length, width, height and cargo volume — vary only slightly from the original.

With an on-the-road starting price of $42,900, the poised and proficient RDX now looks and acts like a more upscale travelling companion that effectively coddles its occupants, should take fewer fuel stops and generally behaves more resolutely when the go pedal is pushed.

Acura, if more power and better fuel economy was intended to be a secret, we're happy to blow your cover.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Flip your Jeep lid

Talk to any owner about their Jeep Wrangler and they'll wax poetic about their favourite off-roader. But ask them about removing and reinstalling the Jeep's canvas top and the air is likely to turn blue. In short, it's not much fun wrestling with the various snaps, zippers, hooks and other attachments. A solution is in hand in the form of the power-operated MyTop from Roadwire. The company states that its lid will automatically fold back and reverse itself in about six seconds. The frame is made of aircraft-grade aluminum (good aluminum), while the electric motors used in the folding/refolding process are of the same design used to operate the canopies of fighter jets. MyTop is priced at $4,300 US, plus installation. More info is available at roadwire.com. WHEELBASE

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MERCHANDISE

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•**Storage-Mart #3002 1020 Wonderland Rd S., London, ON** - **Friday, June 22nd 2012 @ 11:30am** - Units 0223B - A. Matthews, Unit 0424D - J.L.Nash

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Public Auctions

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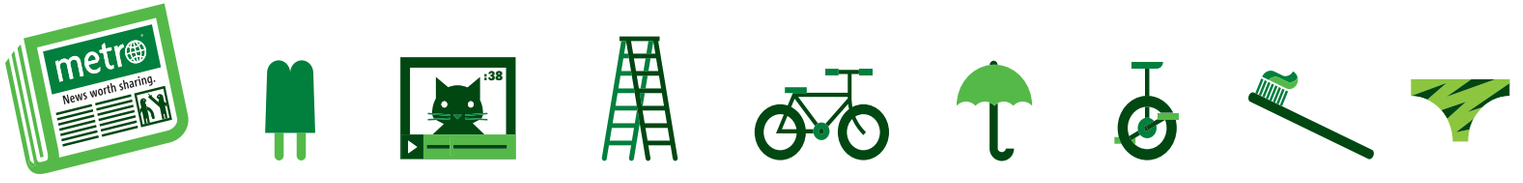

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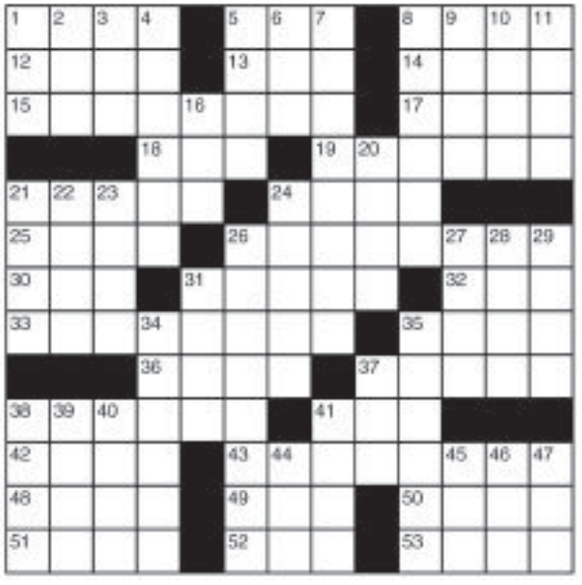
Crossword

Across

1 Distortion in wood
5 $ dispenser
8 Omit
12 Exchange premium
13 Skater Babilonia
14 Domini preceder
15 Critical
17 Defeat
18 Pump up the volume
19 Carelessness?
21 Necklace fastener
24 In-box filler
25 Impetuous
26 Whims
30 Eggs
31 "Be-Bop- —"
32 Actor Holbrook
33 Maximum contents
35 Golf warning
36 Sea eagle
37 Healthy
38 Malay Archipelago sultanate
41 Tackle moguls
42 Theater box
43 South American rodent
48 — podrida
49 Get — for effort
50 Told tales
51 Ottoman governors
52 Torched
53 Therefore

Down

1 Servicewoman
2 Khan title
3 Wardrobe malfunction
4 Fertilizer ingredient
5 On
6 Greek cross
7 Use wrongly
8 Deli meat
9 Make a cardigan
10 Part of the foot
11 Slow
16 Little devil
20 Brazilian river
21 Gator's kin
22 Volcanic outflow
23 Promptly, on a memo
24 Fry lightly
26 Cold and impersonal
27 — En-lai
28 Make
29 Coaster
31 Farm fraction
34 Virgilian hero
35 Weakness
37 Wild blue yonder
38 Amorphous mass
39 Portrayal
40 Unsightly
41 Quarrel
44 Blackbird
45 Melody
46 Rule, for short
47 Commotion



Sudoku

5			4		2			
2	7						3	8
	1			7		6		
	5		2	8				3
		7				8		
8				4	6		2	
		6		1			8	
3	4						7	9
			7		5			4

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	7	2	6	5	1	4	3
2	4	6	3	1	7	5	9	8
5	1	3	8	9	4	7	2	6
7	2	8	9	5	1	6	3	4
6	5	9	4	3	8	2	1	7
1	3	4	6	7	2	9	8	5
9	7	1	5	8	3	4	6	2
4	8	5	1	2	6	3	7	9
3	6	2	7	4	9	8	5	1

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

Q N A F X N O R Q J X T R J J I

V Z G X Z X G P V D X X E G Z I , N R S

P R D N A T E R Z P N A R O X P A X Q Q

E Z V P X F P N V A E Z V T Z R S .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A LANDSCAPE GARDENER IS COMPLETELY TIRED AND READY FOR BED, YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S BUSHED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals N

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. There may be a lot to do but you will achieve more if you slow down and do one vital thing really well.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Your financial position may not be as good as it could be, but neither is it giving serious cause for concern. If you worry, you'll make things worse.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You know what you want and you know where and how to get it, so seize the moment.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart makes it easy to reach down into your subconscious and find out what makes you tick.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Reaching out to those who share your beliefs could put you in touch with some interesting people.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Today you can and you should make a good impression on those who can influence the course of your career.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. With the Sun, Mercury and Venus all moving through one of the most dynamic areas of your chart, much can be achieved. Aim high.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You may feel somewhat vulnerable right now but it's nothing to worry about. If you do, you could end up worrying yourself into a corner.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. It may seem as if you are doing all the giving while others are doing all the taking, but it's for a reason.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You may find it hard to slow down today but you must. Cosmic activity in the wellbeing area of your chart urges you to be kind to yourself.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Your confidence will surge over the next 24 hours and soon you will be doing what others say is impossible.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Use emotions over logic today. If you appeal to someone's sense of sympathy or passion, you will win them over with ease. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"I'm gonna bed it like Babar!" - George

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